



Serial No. 10/029,299
Reply to Office Action of SEP 21, 2006

Docket No. LT-0009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing use of ~~an~~ a rental home appliance, comprising:

receiving information on a use of the rental home appliance through a communication network;

calculating a charge for the use of the rental home appliance based on the received use information; and

transmitting the calculated charge to a user's terminal through the communication network.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said appliance is a washing machine.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said received use information for calculating a charge includes at least one of a type of washing machine, a load capacity of the washing machine, a motor type of the washing machine, an amount of clothes to be washed, a selected washing course program, a selected washing time, a selected number of washing repetitions, a selected number of agitation or spin cycles, and a number of rinsing repetitions.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the appliance is activated by a start signal from a registered subscriber's personal computer or a mobile terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
entering a subscriber number and a unique number of ~~an~~ the appliance through a the communication network;
authenticating said subscriber number and said unique number of ~~an~~ the appliance; and
activating said appliance if said subscriber number and said unique number of ~~an~~ the appliance are authentic.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user's terminal is a personal computer or a mobile terminal.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a bill for use of the appliance after each use of the appliance to a corresponding subscriber.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of managing the use of ~~an~~ a rental home appliance through a communication network, comprising:
authenticating a subscriber number received through the communication network;

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transmitting a start signal for ~~an~~ a rental home appliance identified by the subscriber number from a server through the communication network to a corresponding subscriber's terminal if the subscriber number is authenticated successfully;

receiving use information of the rental home appliance through the communication network;

calculating a charge for the use of the rental home appliance based on the received use information; and

transmitting the calculated charge to the subscriber's terminal through the communication network.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said appliance is a washing machine.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the use information includes at least one of a selected type of the washing machine, a load capacity of the washing machine, a motor type of the washing machine, an amount of clothes to be washed, a selected washing course program, a selected washing time, a selected number of washing repetitions, a selected number of agitation or spin cycles, and a number of rinsing repetitions.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising starting the appliance when the start signal is received by the subscriber's terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
entering a subscriber number and a unique number of ~~an~~ the appliance through a
the communication network;
authenticating said subscriber number and said unique number of ~~an~~ the
appliance; and
activating said appliance if said subscriber number and said unique number of ~~an~~
the appliance are authentic.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the subscriber's terminal is a personal
computer or a mobile terminal.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising sending a bill for use of the
appliance after each use of the appliance to a corresponding subscriber.

15. (Original) A method of managing use of a washing machine through a
communication network, comprising:
receiving information on washing condition program settings based on clothes
inserted in the washing machine through the communication network;
calculating a charge for use of the washing machine based on the received
information;

transmitting the calculated charge to a user's terminal through the communication network; and

transmitting a start signal to the washing machine through the communication network if a washing request is received.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said received information includes at least one of a type of the washing machine, a load capacity of the washing machine, a motor type of the washing machine, an amount of clothes to wash, a selected washing course program, a washing time, a number of washing repetitions, a selected number of agitation or spin cycles, and a selected number of rinsing repetitions.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the user's terminal comprises a personal computer or a mobile terminal.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising sending a bill for use of the washing machine after each use of the washing machine to a corresponding subscriber.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of managing use of ~~an~~ a rental home appliance through a communication network, comprising:

authenticating a subscriber number received through the communication network;

receiving automatically selected information on rental home appliance use conditions through the communication network;

calculating a charge for use of the rental home appliance, if the subscriber number is authenticated successfully;

transmitting the calculated charge to a subscriber's terminal through the communication network; and

transmitting a start signal to the rental home appliance through the communication network if a start request is received.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said appliance is a washing machine and wherein said received information includes at least one of a type of the washing machine, a load capacity of the washing machine, a motor type of the washing machine, an amount of clothes to be washed, a selected washing course program, a selected washing time, a selected number of washing repetitions, a selected number of spin cycles, and a selected number of rinsing repetitions.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the subscriber's terminal comprises a personal computer or a mobile terminal.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising sending a bill for use of the appliance after each use of the appliance to a corresponding subscriber.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a usage of ~~an~~ a rental home appliance, comprising:

receiving a subscriber number from a user over a communication network;

validating said subscriber number;

configuring ~~an~~ a rental home appliance for use if said subscriber number is valid;

receiving usage information from said rental home appliance over the communication network;

calculating charge information based on said usage information; and

transmitting said charge information to said user.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising transmitting said charge information to said user after said user has used said appliance.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising transmitting said charge information to said user before said subscriber has used said appliance.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising cancelling use of said appliance after transmitting said charge information to said user and before said subscriber has used said appliance.

27. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein configuring an appliance for use further comprises activating said appliance when said user pushes a start button.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein transmitting said charge information to said user further comprises displaying said charge information on a display means.

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein validating said subscriber number comprises validating a debit, credit or pre-paid card, and wherein transmitting said charge information to said user further comprises billing said debit, credit or pre-paid card based on said charge information.